

Deane Kemp was the Inaugural Chairman of the South Australian Division's Engineering Heritage Branch which first met in February 1988. Deane had been a member of the previous Engineering Heritage Subcommittee, becoming its Chairman in 1986. As the engineering member of the Early Buildings Committee of the National Trust of SA, Deane also represented that organisation on the Subcommittee.

Under Deane's leadership, the Heritage Branch organised the State's first heritage recognition awards; established a reputation for field trips characterised by comprehensive itineraries and detailed field notes; and prepared the first guide to the City of Adelaide's engineering heritage.

Deane was State Representative on the National Panel on Engineering Heritage and chaired the Panel from 1991 to 1992. He was also a member of the National Panel's Plaquing Subcommittee for a number of years and assisted in producing Engineers Australia's first guidelines for engineering heritage and conservation.

Deane has a broad interest in a range of engineering heritage topics and has presented four conference papers, including one delivered at the First Australasian Engineering Heritage Conference in Christchurch in 1994.

In 1987, Deane was invited to join the steering committee which established the Investigator Science and Technology Centre and continued his involvement until the early 1990s. In 1993 Deane was appointed to the newly-formed State Heritage Authority and was also a member of the History Trust of South Australia's Technology Advisory Committee.

In his professional life as a consulting engineer, Deane has carried out heritage assessments of building services such as early electric lifts and air conditioning plant and a pilot survey of the State's roadside heritage. As part of a conservation study of Urrbrae House (dating to 1899), Deane identified a unique example of domestic refrigeration and electric lighting which was awarded a heritage recognition plaque in 1999. He also played a part in the practical restoration of some of the building services and continues to assist with maintenance.

Deane's interest in engineering heritage is as strong as ever and, despite active involvement in other groups, he is always willing to draw upon his extensive knowledge and experience to advise on and assist with current projects.